

**761—511.15(321E) Escorting.**

**511.15(1) Escort qualification.** An escort shall be a person aged 18 or over who possesses a Class A, B, C or D driver's license which allows driving unaccompanied, has a properly equipped vehicle, and who carries proof of public liability insurance in the amounts of \$100,000/\$200,000/\$50,000.

**511.15(2) Escorting responsibilities.**

a. The escorting vehicle shall be a mid-size automobile or motor truck with sufficient mobility to be able to assist in an emergency and designed to afford clear and unobstructed vision both front and rear. In questionable cases the permit-issuing authority shall determine if a vehicle meets these conditions.

b. The escorting vehicle shall have an amber revolving light at least 7 inches high and 7 inches in diameter with at least a 100-candlepower lamp providing 360° warning. A light of smaller dimensions shall not be permitted unless a strobe light is used. While escorting a permit load, the revolving light shall be mounted on top of the escort vehicle and shall be burning. Additional escort vehicle markings may be approved or required by the permit-issuing authority.

c. An 18-inch by 18-inch red or orange fluorescent flag shall be mounted on each corner of the front bumper of the escort vehicle.

d. The escort shall remain a distance of approximately 300 feet in front or to the rear of the load. However, when traveling within the corporate limits of a city, the escort shall maintain a reasonable and proper distance consistent with existing traffic conditions.

e. A separate escort shall be provided for each load hauled under escort.

f. All traffic laws and provisions of the oversize permit for the load shall be obeyed.

g. The escort shall not assume responsibility for stopping traffic. An on-duty peace officer, as defined in Iowa Code section 321.1, shall be contacted to provide any traffic control needed.

h. Immediately prior to an escorting trip, the escort shall determine that the escorting vehicle is in a safe operational condition and that the dimensions of the vehicle and load are in compliance with the permit issued.

i. Escort fees charged by state and local authorities shall not exceed \$250 per day per escort vehicle.

j. A pole used for measuring vertical clearances shall be mounted on the escort vehicle. The escort shall be required to measure all vertical clearances whenever the height of the permitted vehicle exceeds 14 feet 4 inches up to and including 20 feet.

**511.15(3) Requirements for escorts, flags, signs and lights.** The following chart explains the minimum escort and warning devices required for vehicles operating under permit.

Minimum Warning Devices and Escort Requirements  
For Vehicles Operating Under Permit

	Flags/Signs	Lights	Escorts	
			4-Lane	2-Lane
<b>Length</b>				
75'1" up to and including 85'	✓	not required	not required	not required
Over 85' up to and including 120'	✓	✓	not required	not required
Over 120'	✓	not required	rear	rear
<b>Projections</b>				
Front: over 25'	not required	✓	not required	not required
Rear: over 4' up to and including 10'	flags only	not required	not required	not required
Rear: over 10'	flags only	✓	not required	not required
<b>Height</b>				
Over 14'4" up to and including 20'	✓	not required	front with a height pole	front with a height pole
<b>Weight</b>				
Over 80,000 lbs.	not required	✓	not required	not required

Width				Lane Width Less than 12'	Lane Width 12' and more
Over 8'6" up to half the roadway	✓	not required	not required	not required	not required
Over half the roadway, up to and including 14'6"					
<i>with sufficient shoulders</i>	✓	not required	rear *	front	front *
<i>without sufficient shoulders</i>	✓	not required	rear *	front	front
Over 14'6" up to and including 16'6"	✓	not required	rear *	front	front
Over 16'6" up to and including 18'	✓	not required	rear	front	front

\*In lieu of an escort, a carrier can display an amber light or strobe light on the power unit and on the rear extremity of the vehicle or load.

✓Required

#### Definitions:

**Flags** - Red or orange fluorescent flags at least 18" square must be mounted as follows: one flag at each front corner of the towing unit and one flag at each rear corner of the load. In addition, there must be a flag at any additional protrusion in the width of the load.

**Signs** - A sign reading "Oversize Load" must be used. The sign must be at least 18" high by 7' long with a minimum of 12" black letters, with a 1 ½" stroke, on a yellow background, and mounted on the front bumper and on the rear of the load. The rear sign for mobile homes and factory-built structures must be mounted at least 7' above the highway surface, measuring from the bottom of the sign.

**Lights** - An amber revolving light must be at least 7" high and 7" in diameter with at least a 100-candlepower lamp providing 360° warning (or strobe light) mounted on the towing unit, visible from front and rear. More than one light may be necessary.

**Sufficient Shoulder** - A gravel or paved surface extending a minimum of 6' beyond the edge of the roadway. (Roadways with sufficient shoulders will be identified by the department.)

The permit-issuing authority may require additional escorts when deemed necessary. The signs or warning devices must be removed or covered when the vehicle is within legal dimensions.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 321E.14, 321E.24 and 321E.34.